## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following paragraph before the first paragraph beginning at page 1, line 1:

## CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/434,056 filed December 17, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference.

The present invention relates to video coding, and more particularly an improved system for splitting and combining multiple description video streams.